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FACE TO FACE WITH RATTLER

How Chas. Lewis Eluded Indians and Foiled Snake

From a copy of Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly, published in New York in the 80's, we take the following account of a member of the Lewis family, which originally settled in Virginia and now are scattered pretty wide over the United States:

The family of John Lewis were the first settlers of Augusta, in the State of Virginia, and consisted of himself, his wife and four sons—Thomas, William, Andrew and Charles. Of these, the first three were born in Ireland, from whence the family came, and the last was a native of Virginia.

Lewis was a man of wealth and station in the old country, and the cause of his emigration to America was an attempt on the part of a man, of whom he hired some property to eject him therefrom, which led to an affray in which the noble landlord lost his life.

Fearing, from the high standing of his antagonist, the desperate character of his surviving assailants, and the want of evidence to substantiate his case, that this life would be in danger if he staid, Lewis fled the country accompanied by a party of his kinsmen, and settled in the then western wilds of Virginia.

The father seems to have been a man of remarkable force and energy, and all four of his sons rendered themselves conspicuous for deeds of daring and determined bravery during the early history of Western Virginia, and that of her infant sisters, Ohio and Kentucky, which would require volumes to relate.

Charles Lewis, the hero of present sketch, was, even in early youth, distinguished for those qualifications which have rendered the class to which he belonged the Indian fighters—so remarkable among men.

He was a young man when the Indians commenced their attacks upon the settlements of Western

Virginia, but entered the contests with a zeal and courage which outstripped many of his older and more boastful compeers. His astonishing self possession and presence of mind carried him safely through many a gallant exploit, which has rendered his name as familiar and his fame as dear to the memories of the descendants of the early settlers as household words.

Cool, calm and collected in the face of danger, and quickwitted where others would be apt to be excited and tremulous, he was able to grasp on the instant the propitious moment for action, and render subservient to his own advantage the most trifling incident.

He was so unfortunate, on one occasion, as to be taken prisoner by a party of Indians while on a hunting excursion. Separated from his companions he was surprised and surrounded before he was aware of his danger, and when he did become aware of his critical situation he saw how futile it was to contend, and how reckless and fatal it must be to himself should he kill one of his antagonists.

He knew full well that the blood of his enemy would be washed out in his own, and that, too, at the stake; whereas, if he surrendered peaceably he stood a chance of being adopted by the Indians as one of themselves. Revolving these things in his mind, he quietly delivered up his rifle to his enemies, and was led away by his captors, who rejoiced exceedingly over their prisoner.

Bareheaded, with his arms bound tightly behind him, without a coat, and barefooted, he was driven forward some two hundred miles toward the Indian towns, his inhuman captors urging him on, when he lagged, with their knives, and tauntingly reminding him of the trials which awaited him at the end of the journey.

Nothing daunted, however, by their threats and their menaces, he marched on in the weary path which led him further and still further from his friends, perfectly tractable, so far as his body was concerned, but constantly busy in his mind with schemes of escape. He bided his time, and at length the wished-for moment arrived.

As the distance from the white settlements increased, the vigilance of the Indians relaxed, and his hopes increased. As the party passed along near a precipice some twenty feet high, at the foot of which ran a mountain torrent, he by a powerful effort, broke the cords that bound his arms and made the leap.

The Indians whose aim it was to take him alive, followed him and then commenced a race for life and liberty, which was rendered the more exciting by the fact that his pursuers were close upon him, and could have at any moment dispatched him; but such was not their desire, and on he sped, now buoyed up by hope, as his recent captors were lost to sight, and anon despairing of success as he crossed an open space which showed them almost at his heels.

At length, taking advantage of a thicket through which he passed, and which hid him from their sight for a moment, he darted aside and essayed to leap a fallen tree which lay across his path. The tangled underbrush and reeds which grew thickly around and almost covered the decaying trunk, tripped him as he leaped, and he fell with considerable force on the opposite side.

For an instant he was so stunned by the fall as to lose his consciousness, but soon recovered it to find that the Indians were actively searching every nook in his immediate vicinity, and that he had fallen almost directly upon a large rattlesnake, which had thrown itself into the deadly coil so near his face that its fangs were within a few inches of his nose.

Is it possible for the most vivid imagination to imagine a more horribly and terrifying situation? The pursuit of his now highly exasperated and savage enemies, who thirsted for his recapture; that they might wreak a fearful revenge, which of itself was a fearful danger, calculated to thrill the nerves of the stoutest system, had now become a secondary fear, for death in one of its most terrifying and soul sickening forms was vibrating on the tongue and darting from the eye of the fearful reptile before him; so near, too, that the vibratory motion of the rattle, as it waved to and fro, caused it to strike his ear.

The slightest movement of a muscle, a convulsive shudder—almost the winking of an eyelid—would have been the signal for his death; yet in the midst of this terrible danger his presence of mind did not leave him, but like a faithful friend did him good service in his hour of trial.

Knowing the awful nature of his impending fate, and conscious that the slightest quivering of a nerve would precipitate it, he scarcely breathed, and the blood flowed feebly thru his veins, as he lay looking death in the eye.

Surrounded thus by the most appalling danger, he was conscious that three of the Indians had passed over the log behind which he lay without observing him, and disappeared in the dark recesses of the forest.

Several minutes—which to him were as many hours—passed in this truly terrifying situation, until the snake, apparently satis-

fied that he was dead, loosed his deadly coil, and passing directly over his body, was lost to sight in the luxuriant growth of weeds which grew up around the fallen tree.

Oh! what a thrill—what a revulsion of feeling shook his frame as he was relieved from his awful situation! Tears—tears of joyous gratitude—coursed down his cheeks as he poured out his heart to God in thankfulness for his escape.

He was still in imminent danger from the Indians, who knew that he had hidden in some secluded spot and were searching with most zealous every nook and corner to find him. He was fortunate enough, however, to escape them, and after a weary march through the wilderness, during which he suffered intensely from hunger, he reached the settlements.

James Hamilton Awarded \$1500 Damages

James Hamilton, son of A. B. Hamilton, of Victoria, was awarded \$1500 damages in circuit court at Jasper Friday. He was struck by an N. C. & St. L. train near Victoria last summer, and badly injured, having to be taken to Chattanooga for treatment, a hole having been made in his skull. Damages amounting to \$25,000 were asked, but the jury in the case set them at \$1500. Hamilton was represented by W. E. McCurry, of Whitwell, who had honor of winning this case over the argument of some very fine legal talent, such as L. R. Darr, who is counsel for the railroad in this county, Joe Brown, of Chattanooga, and W. D. Spears and L. N. Spears, of Spears & Spears, Chattanooga.

Hamilton, it seems, had gone to sleep on the track, having sat down for a few minutes to rest. He worked at night as a motor man in Whitwell mines, and was overcome by sleep, so we understand. The accident occurred in daylight hours, the train being the "local" en route to Pikeville.

Big Wages To Railroad Men

Big wages are now paid railroad men on the Sequachee Valley Branch of the N. C. & St. L. Ry. It is said an engineer making on run from Bristol gets \$7 for 8 hours, or \$21 1/2 per hour.

Cubs carrying mail now get \$15 per month or as much as a depot agent got ten years ago.

Sam Spears Dies at Jasper

Sam Spears died at Jasper at Jasper Tuesday. He had been in poor health for a number of years, and was afflicted with a catarrh on one of his hands. He was a brother-in-law of Mrs. Wm. Brewer of this place and formerly resided here.

BOURBON RED TURKEYS

For sale, two pair Bourbon Red Turkeys, full stock. Mrs. E. B. Alder, Phone 7712. Whitwell, Tenn.

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We Want Your Business

SOLDIERS NOW ENJOYING ATHLETICS

Plaines, France, Jan. 19, 1919.
Editor News:

It has been quite a while since I saw a copy of the News, and I don't know how long it will be before I get a chance to see another, but I hope it won't be long.

I see lots of the boys here that used to be in Sequachee, but only one that I knew before I came to the army. And most of them are subscribers to your paper, and I am always hearing them talk about the Sequachee News.

We are feeling some better since the armistice was signed, for we don't have to "squads east and west" so much now. We get most of the afternoons for athletics. We had a football game yesterday, the 317th F. A. vs. the 318th F. A., and today the 81st Div. vs. the 6th Div. The 81st Div. played the 77th Div. sometime ago, and was defeated 14 and 0, but didn't get beat today. Believe me the "Wild Cats" are some division.

We have received lots of things from the Red Cross, and have two Y. W. C. A. ladies with our regiment. Our one is Miss White, and believe me the boys would do anything for her.

Sure would love to be in dear old Tennessee tonight. I bet I could get some real candy and see a real movie. We have a movie show here about twice a week, but our theatre is not comfortable. It hasn't seats for all of us, and we either have to stand up, or sit on a sack on a sack of spuds, or sit on the dining table. I have seen so many shows in the kitchen I would almost be afraid to go in a theatre when I get to United States for fear I would get called out for sitting on the table or something, so you see we have all our shows in the kitchen, but we have some good shows.

It is about time for "taps" and I can't stay up any longer.
Pvt. Paul Pensly,
Bat. C. 317 F. A.

NOTICE

1 24-inch Meadows Grist Mill in first-class shape, \$100.

1 18-inch International Feed Grinder, first class condition, \$35.

Line shaft, belting and pulleys.

Will sell for cash or exchange for Liberty Bonds.

W. C. HILL,
Sequachee, Tenn.

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Highest Prices, Correct Weights and Prompt Returns Always Guaranteed

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Special to the News.

As I did not get in last week, I will make an effort to get in this week to keep the readers of the News from thinking that I have gone oil crazy like many others. The oil is still the talk here, but not quite as bad as it was a few weeks ago. I was not well enough last week to write a letter to the News, and not much better this week. I have not got over the effect of the fall I got some three weeks ago. I was hurt worse than I thought I was.

We are having some nice spring-like weather now, and have had for several days. There was a pretty hard hail storm here Wednesday afternoon, but have heard no damage resulting from it.

Farmers are busy breaking land for this year's crop. It will soon be corn planting time and the farmer that cares to do well will soon be busy until the crop is made. Hope there will be good crops made as it will lower the cost of living.

Seems that the peace pow-wow is not making much progress at anything, only having a big time. The armies surrendering understood what was expected of them and agreed willingly to the terms and would have signed peace compacts as readily as they signed the armistice. All this fooling and dillydallying, there is nothing to it. They could have had it all settled if they had gone at it and worked 8 hours a day as they should have done, but eating out of gold dishes and working 8 hours a day don't go together. They are nothing for the people's interest. There is a time coming when some of them will tell the dear people how well they love them. Some will want office, others will want money for this and that, but the answer of the people will be heard in 1920. By that time there will be quite a different picture on the screen. I hope for the best result, but this fooling along will encourage the enemy to figure out more schemes. Nations at war is like boys fighting. It is easier while one has got the best of the game to get any acknowledgements they want. Fooling along till it gets old and they have had time to formulate new schemes they are apt to be obstinate and not agree to things as readily as they would when it was fresh and the licking hurt.

Hope to see more letters from different places in next paper.

Lone Star.

For Rent.

Property in Sequatchie belonging to Miss Mathilde Gustafson.

Large dwelling, fruit trees and fine garden. Apply to Miss Louise Hill, agent, Sequatchie, Tenn., for terms.

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